



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



SALT LAKE CITY ASLTA CONFERENCE

The Beehive State is ready for the 2017 ASLTA National Conference

The Board visited the site of the 2017 National ASLTA Professional Development conference, the Salt Lake Marriott Downtown at City Creek and are excited to report that it's the perfect location for our biennial conference! The hotel is Deaf-friendly with an open lobby and floor plan plus well-lit workshop rooms. Conference-goers will enjoy the easy-to-follow flow from registration area to opening ceremonies/workshop space to Exhibit hall. Mark your calendars now for June 28 – July 1, 2017.

When you fly into SLC airport, hop on the Trax (light rail service) to downtown – it stops only a block from the hotel, or grab an inexpensive ride on the Express Shuttle to downtown to be dropped off at the hotel front door. The hotel is in the midst of many wonderful restaurants and stores, an area built up when SLC hosted the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Steps away from the hotel is an open mall area with lovely benches and fountains for you to take a break in between conference activities.

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ASLTA BOARD BULLETINS

Grab time to read & keep up with the Board members

PAGE 2 & 4

TRIBUTE TO TIMO

Celebrating his legacy & recognizing his work to build ASLTA into a stronger organization

PAGE 5

NEW ANNUAL SPONSORSHIPS

ASLTA work cannot happen without community and business support

PAGE 8

Timeline until our next ASLTA Conference in SLC:

18 months to go before we're together again at our 9th National Conference in SLC

Need ideas for your classroom?

UCLA ASL lecturer has great tips to help you to reboot your classroom into a revolutionary ASL learning setting
page 8

Upgrading ASLTA Certification

Our Evaluation & Certification Chair, and committee are working for a smooth transition to the new Evaluation system
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ASL Honor Society

Important announcements & exciting updates
page 10-12



Many meals are part of the registration package, but you'll have time to check out and try local restaurants unique to SLC downtown. There's many great hang-out spots for the networking with fellow ASL professionals and reunions with friends that is integral to the ASLTA conference experience! For after workshops, a nice sized pool and hot tub area on the second floor will definitely be the spot for some good conversation. A workout room is in the same area if you want to exercise with a buddy – or better yet, SLC is a very walkable city – go out and check out the local attractions.

Exhibitors, get ready to reserve your space - the Exhibit hall partition will be opened for easy access during major conference events so that everyone can check out new products and tools for your ASL classroom as well as ASL novelties and other exciting goods/services! Information on securing your booth space will be released soon.

Kim Smith and her conference committee have a great program planned with careful attention to details that will

add up to a learning-intensive, cost-effective conference experience for everyone! Details will be released shortly on Keynote and Changemaker speakers and the conference schedule. The next eNewsletter will have the conference Call for Papers with details on specific workshop tracks including L1 teaching and specialization, L2 college and high school teaching, research and applied linguistics. Watch for more details to be released soon! If you have specific questions, you can reach Kim Smith at conference@aslt.org. Hands waving to Kim and Dan Hoffman, President of Utah ASLTA for all the great conference planning work they're doing!

Here's an advance tip – SLC has two major Marriott hotels downtown – be sure to reserve your room at the right one – our conference hotel is at the Marriott Downtown at City Creek, not the SLC Marriott City Center .

Many thanks to Sign Media Inc and Sorenson Communications for sponsoring the Board's Site Visit. National ASLTA greatly appreciates your support!

ASLTA Board Bulletins

TREASURER

Your ASLTA remains financially sound. However, the year between conferences is always challenging for us. Our membership drops during non-conference years. It is especially important that our loyal members actively recruit their fellow ASL teachers to join and become certified through ASLTA. This is the only way that ASLTA can fulfill our mission to preserve and protect ASL and raise the standards for teachers teaching ASL. If you are a member of ASLTA for 2015/16, thank you and please recruit just one other member. Our membership would automatically double. If you are not yet a member, please join today at www.aslta.org/membership. Once you are a member, spread the word so that your fellow professional colleagues will join ASLTA with you. **Continued page 4.**



SAVE THE DATE

ASLTA



SALT LAKE CITY

JUNE 28 - JULY 1, 2017

ASL ELEVATED

ASLTA 9th Biennial National Professional
Development Conference

Salt Lake Marriott Downtown at City Creek



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



Continued from page 2

We have been contacting certified members who have not paid dues either for this year or past dues cycles. Be aware that certified members are required to maintain their membership in good standing each year in order to hold valid certification. Please be sure your membership is up to date. Contact **Treasurer@aslta.org** if you have questions about your membership status. If you have questions please feel free to contact this office. For questions about your certification status you may also contact Tony Ellis at **asltaevaluation2012@gmail.com**.

Exciting changes will be occurring in our Evaluation and Certification system. Your certification must be up to date and your membership paid (including past due memberships) if you want to remain certified in our revised system. Please read Amy June Rowley's report and view the videos she has created to explain the changes that will occur. Don't miss this opportunity to become permanently certified.

Announcing our first Platinum (\$10,000 level) Annual Sponsor

Veditz|Powered by Exemplars at:
<http://www.vedits.org/>

I am happy to announce that we have initiated a campaign of Annual Sponsorships for ASLTA for both businesses and corporations and not-for-profit associations and organizations. More information will soon be posted on our website about this opportunity for annual sponsorship of ASLTA.

In the meantime if you or your company is interested in becoming an Annual Sponsor of ASLTA, please contact me,
treasurer@aslta.org.

By this effort we are working to bring more stable and reliable funding to ASLTA so that we are not only dependent on membership dues for our operating funds and special projects. Our first Annual Platinum level sponsor is Veditz byExemplars. This sponsorship should be very beneficial to our members because this company has pledged to use ASLTA certified tutors in rolling out its services. This affords our members opportunities for employment.

Vice President's Report



With the addition of new Board members last summer, there's been a bit of switching around regarding duties.

When I was serving as Member-at-Large, my focus was on the members, particularly the newsletters and e-blasts. Now that I am Vice President, my focus has shifted to not only supporting our President but also working with AllOut Marketing on the website renovations happening behind the scenes, learning how to maintain the website, and most importantly, overseeing the financial health of ASLTA. In order for ASLTA to remain financially stable, I am working with the Treasurer to create an annual budget as a guide for the Board to follow and figuring out ways to bring in more revenue so that ASLTA can become a stronger organization. We have a hard-working Board and I am honored to be working alongside with such great people! :)

In Memory of Timo Owens

February 4, 2016 – Wishing Timo Happy 60th Birthday as he smiles down on us from the great beyond.

Timo is just one of the greatest people ever. A dear friend to many, a passionate leader, an insightful supporter of our Deaf community in so many ways, and a tireless advocate of all things ASL. Timo was a longtime member of ASLTA through his Kentucky Bluegrass ASLTA chapter. He helped to organize many professional development opportunities in state and inspired people to pursue ASLTA certification. Timo was a frequent presenter and a familiar sight at our biennial ASLTA conferences.

National ASLTA is blessed that Timo chose to share with us, his leadership, time and talent in the last couple of years. He was elected Vice President in 2014, then a few months later stepped into the role of President when his predecessor had to resign.

Timo quickly turned his focus on bringing the ASLTA national organization up to date, straightening out finances, and re-connecting with

members. Timo tirelessly met with many people in different ASL professions including L1/heritage language teaching/support, second language teaching, Deaf studies, and research, working to bring everyone together under ASLTA's banner. Timo believed that working together, we would



Timo Owens

have greater numbers leading to political effectiveness and manpower to progress further with shared goals. He championed for National ASLTA to become American Sign Language Professionals Association to embrace all the professions tied to ASL excellence. Timo inspired many people with his quiet leadership, his love for people and his passion for the Deaf Community. and the promotion of American Sign language as a birthright, as a heritage language, and excellence

in teaching, research, and as an opportunity for others to share our Deaf world. The current National ASLTA Board is proud to carry the torch in his memory.

Some of Timo's achievements include:

- Ensuring a full and functioning National Board filling empty positions, calling for twice-a-year face-to-face meetings and twice-monthly online meetings. Strategic planning and holding all Board members accountable
- New ASLTA website
- Quarterly eNewsletters and eBlast communication with members
- Updating Bylaws and Procedures
- Successful 2015 conference in Minnesota
- Stronger connections between National Board and Chapters
- Reinstated 501c3 status and worked tirelessly toward financial stability for ASLTA
- Breathing new life into ASLTA, inspiring many to support and protect our language and language rights

Our New Annual Sponsorships

By Bill Newell

As you read in my Treasurer's Report, ASLTA has initiated a new funding initiative of Annual Sponsorships. Let me take this opportunity to briefly explain this new initiative.

It has been a longstanding practice for ASLTA to seek sponsorships for our National Professional Development Conference which occurs biennially. Sponsors of our conference may sponsor the conference at various levels and receive benefits associated with the conference. Sponsors of our conference are appreciated and go a long way towards supporting this essential professional development opportunity for our members.

The ASLTA Board has developed a new program of Annual Sponsorships which affords "for profit businesses" and "not for

profit agencies" the opportunity to sponsor ASLTA on an annual basis. The strategic objective is to provide a more stable annual funding source for ASLTA operations and special projects. By this the board hopes to become less dependent on membership as our sole source of income and in turn be able to grow and expand ASLTA to new heights as the oldest and premier professional development association for ASL-related professionals.

Look over the Annual Sponsorship opportunities. If you have connections to businesses, not for profit agencies, or individuals who may wish to become annual sponsors of ASLTA, please spread the word and do some recruitment for your ASLTA. We will greatly appreciate your support and the ongoing annual support of our sponsors.



Did you know?

George Veditz once worried that sign language would disappear within fifty years. By 2013, for more than 100 years, we are still using our precious sign language. His famous words state, "As long as we have deaf people on earth, we will have signs. And as long as we have our films, we can preserve signs in their old purity. It is my hope that we will all love and guard our beautiful sign language as the noblest gift God has given to deaf people."

—George Veditz

Annual Business Sponsor (For Profit)

Gold Sponsor

\$10,000 + annual contribution:

- Full page on ASLTA website for logo, product descriptions, sponsor's commitment to ASLTA and promotion of the mission of the ASLTA
- Two focused eBlasts per year
- Booth at biennial professional development conference
- Banner displayed at biennial professional development conference

\$5,000 + annual contribution:

- Half page on ASLTA website for logo, product descriptions, sponsor's commitment to ASLTA and promotion of the mission of the ASLTA
- One focused eBlasts per year
- Booth at biennial professional development conference
- Banner displayed at biennial professional development conference

\$2,500 + annual contribution:

- Quarter page on ASLTA website for logo, product descriptions, sponsor's commitment to ASLTA and promotion of the mission of the ASLTA
- Banner displayed at biennial professional development conference
- Quarter page in NPDC Program Book

\$1,000 + annual contribution:

- Logo and link to business website
- Listed as Bronze Sponsor of the ASLTA in all Newsletters

- Four complimentary combo registrations at professional development conference
- Full page in NPDC Program Book
- Full page ad in four Newsletters/year
- Listed as Platinum sponsor in all Newsletters
- One Platinum contact receives all eBlasts and Newsletters
- Reciprocal links on websites

- Two complimentary combo registrations at conference
- Half page in NPDC Program Book
- Half page ad in four Newsletters/year
- Listed as Gold sponsor in two Newsletters
- One contact receives all eBlasts and Newsletters
- Reciprocal links on websites

- Quarter page ad in one Newsletters/year
- Listed as Silver Sponsor of the ASLTA in all Newsletters
- One contact receives all eBlasts and Newsletters
- Reciprocal links on websites

- One contact receives all eBlasts and Newsletters
- Reciprocal links on websites

Platinum Sponsor

Silver Sponsor

Thanks to our Wonderful Annual Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors: Exemplars | myexemplars.com/

Note: ASLTA reserves the right to review and approve all content related to the Not for Profit Association sponsors to ensure content complies with ASLTA's 501(c)3 status.

Bronze Sponsor

Annual Non-Profit Organizations

Full page on ASLTA website for logo, description of mission etc, link to sponsors website (No product for sale allowed)

Listed as- Gold Sponsor of ASLTA in all Newsletters One contact person receives all eBlasts and Newsletters

Reciprocal links on websites

Gold Sponsor

\$500 annual contribution

Half page on ASLTA website for logo and link sponsor website (may be shared with Bronze Sponsor logos) (No product for sale allowed)

Listed as - Silver sponsor of ASLTA in all Newsletters One contact receives all eBlasts and Newsletters

Reciprocal links on websites

Silver Sponsor

\$250 annual contribution

Logo on a shared sponsor page (No product for sale allowed)

Listed as- Bronze Sponsor of ASLTA in all Newsletters One contact receives all eBlasts and Newsletters

Reciprocal links on websites

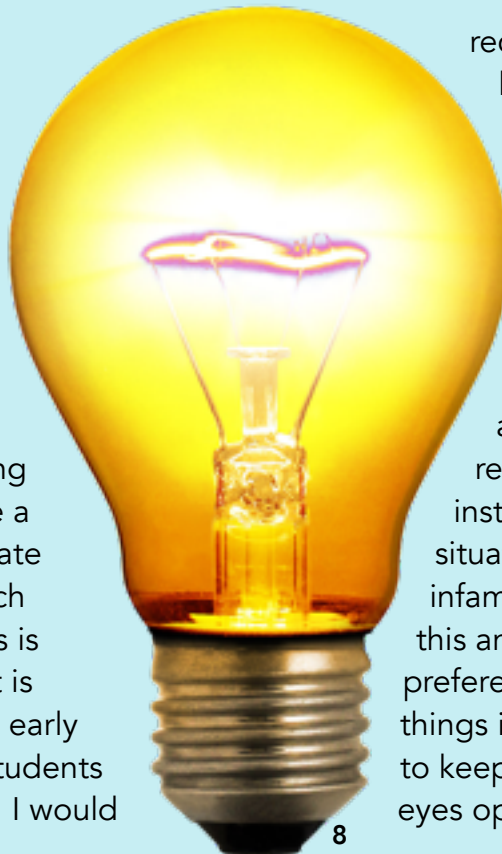
Bronze Sponsor

\$150 annual contribution

Jumpstart your ASL Teaching with Fresh Resources

By Benjamin Lewis

What do you do when you run out of ideas on how to use different resources? You might start screaming! I felt the same when I first started teaching professionally in Japan. First, you must look at your students' demographic - what are their interests? What do they love that may not be in your teaching booklets? This survey might be a great way to help you to navigate through the right topics to teach them. Running out of resources is almost impossible - however, it is possible you finish the unit too early and don't know how to keep students occupied within the classroom. I would



recommend going to any nearby bookstores or even the library and stroll through the teaching sections. You'll be able to find a variety of publications on the shelf that will inspire you. If you are keen on hands-on activities, you should check different websites for classroom activities and make sure they are relevant to your teaching. For instance, some units discuss living situations - you can use the very infamous game MASH. Students love this and are eager to ask their partner's preferences regarding many different things in ASL. There are numerous ways to keep your class engaged. Keep your eyes open and look for a brilliant idea!

Updates on Evaluation and Certification

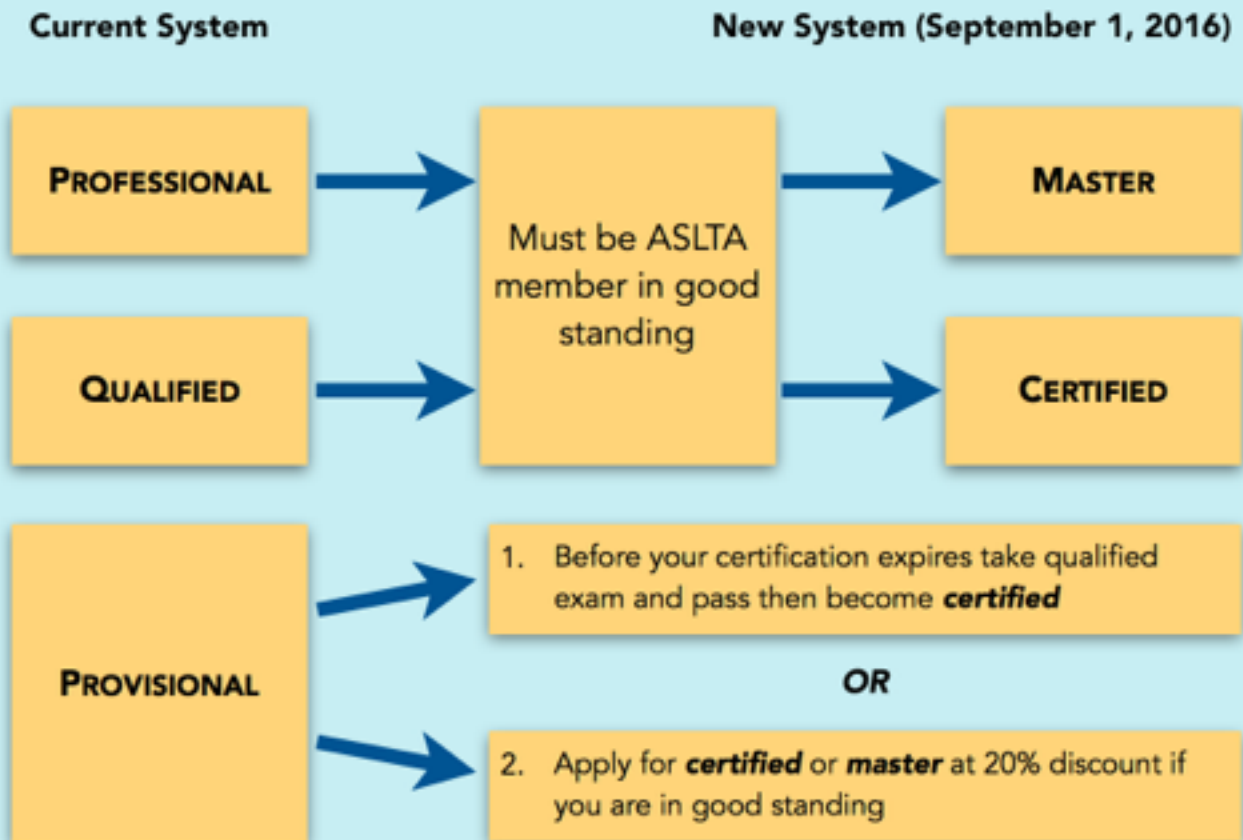
Transition Plan to New Certification System

By Amy June Rowley

The new certification system will be available to the public on September 1, 2016. There are two levels: Master and Certified. Certified members holding valid Professional level certification will be receiving Master level certification and those holding valid Qualified level certification will be receiving Certified level certification. Members holding valid Provisional level either

- 1) Apply for Qualified level certification once the criteria is met, **OR**
- 2) Apply using the new system at a discount. Remember, this is only for members who have their certification and membership current.

Your certification must be valid; that is, your membership up to date including past due memberships and your certification not expired in order to change over to the new certification levels. Don't miss this opportunity to hold permanent certification. If you have questions about your current certification or need to extend your expired certification contact me at evaluation@aslta.org.



GREAT NEWS!

THE ASL HONOR SOCIETY is sponsoring **TWO** competitions for the upcoming school year. Why should your students participate?

- ▶ Helps them apply what they learn in the classroom in a fun, exciting way
- ▶ Opportunity to win cash prizes!
- ▶ Participants receive additional points if they apply for the ASL Scholarship



FALL SEMESTER: The Chuck Baird Memorial Deaf Art Competition

Entry deadline: November 13, 2015

CATEGORIES:

- 1) Reproduction: Painting or Drawing
Students copy any one of Ann Silver's famous works.
- 2) Original Creation
Students create a work of art reflecting their understanding or perspective of an element of Deaf life, history, culture, or language.

Students can enter artwork using watercolor, colored pencils, charcoal, oil, acrylics, pencil sketch, and paint.



SPRING SEMESTER: The ASL Literature Competition: Douglas Ridloff's Number Stories

Entry deadline: April 10, 2016

CATEGORIES:

- 1) Recitation: Number Story
Students copy and retell any one of Douglas Ridloff's number stories.
- 2) Original Creation
Students create their own unique number story.

For entry forms and guidelines for both competitions, visit the ASLHS website:
www.aslhonorsociety.org

Also find us on Facebook! facebook.com/ASLHonorSociety

WHY JOIN THE ASL HONOR SOCIETY?

THE ASLHS is just like an ASL club on campus.

Easy to manage, doesn't take any extra work, but best of all, it opens the door to a lot of benefits:

- ▶ **ASL Scholarships.** We provide the only nation-wide scholarships for students majoring or minoring in ASL, Deaf Studies, Deaf Education, and Interpreter Education. Help your students pay for school!
 - ▶ **Teacher Grants.** The ASLHS provides grants to ASL teachers that can be used for any educational-related activity. Want to pay for guest speakers? No problem. Want to purchase DVDs? No problem. Want to take your students on a field trip? No problem!
 - ▶ **Student Competitions.** Your students can participate in the annual ASL Literature competition and annual Chuck Baird Memorial Deaf Art competition. Help them apply the concepts and skills you teach in the classroom! Cash prizes are awarded.
- Graduation Materials.** Recognize outstanding
- ▶ students with honor cords, the Alice Cogswell Medal, or the Laurent Clerc Medal. Encourage students to work hard and earn praise!



DON'T LET YOUR STUDENTS GET LEFT BEHIND! JOIN TODAY!

American Sign Language
Honor Society



High School • College • University

Visit our website or find us on Facebook!

www.aslhonorsociety.org
facebook.com/ASLHonorSociety



Important Dates!

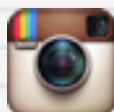
August – December	Renew your ASLHS and ASLTA memberships
November 13, 2015	Deaf Art competition entry deadline ↳ <i>Featured De'VIA Artist: Ann Silver</i>
December 7, 2015	ASL Scholarship application forms available
March 7, 2016	Graduation cords & medals can be order
April 1, 2016	Earliest ship date for graduation materials
April 10, 2016	ASL Literature competition entry deadline ↳ <i>Featured Storyteller: Douglas Ridloff</i>
May 6, 2016	Graduation materials order forms postmarked after this date must include rush shipping
May 6, 2016	ASL Scholarship application deadline
May 23, 2016	Final date to submit orders for graduation materials
May 27, 2016	FINAL ship date for graduation materials
June 3, 2016	ASL Scholarship recipients announced

Resources: www.aslhonorsociety.org | facebook.com/ASLHonorSociety

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